

are now engaged in prestigious and rewarding careers in diverse fields including law, business, politics, communications and education. In addition, all who have come to know him have enjoyed his delightful sense of humor and his talent as a most entertaining storyteller. He founded storywise.com, the Center for Narrative Studies, here in Washington and has shared his insight with audiences nationally and internationally.

On Friday, February 29, friends, supporters and alums from the Washington-Ireland Program will come together to toast Paul Costello for 10 years of remarkable success. I know my colleagues here in Congress join me in expressing appreciation for his service and in wishing him all the best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO CORONA CITIZEN OF
THE YEAR BECKY GUNNOE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California, are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Becky Gunnoe is one of these individuals. On January 19, 2008, Becky received the city of Corona's top honor when the Corona Chamber of Commerce named her Citizen of the Year for 2007 at the organization's 93rd annual awards and installation dinner at the Eagle Glen Golf Club.

Becky Gunnoe exemplifies the word "volunteer." For more than 20 years, Becky has touched the lives of many people through her volunteer work in many programs and services in Corona. As a founding member in 1996, Becky was the catalyst for the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) coming to Corona, including funding, training, and attracting volunteers. TIP is a group of specially trained citizen volunteers who provide "emotional first aid" to victims of traumatic events and their families in the first few hours following a tragedy. The volunteers are called to a crisis scene or to a local hospital by authorized police officers, firefighters or hospital personnel. Now in its 11th successful year, the program has a close working relationship with all the local emergency agencies because of Becky's continued efforts. She is responsible for training not only the volunteers, but also the emergency personnel.

Becky has also served on the Corona Fire Safety Foundation Board, CFSF, for the past 5 years, and currently is its president. She has also been with the Community Police Community Partnership, CPCP, since October 1997 and served as president from 1999 to 2001. A joint fundraiser of these two organizations called the Great Taste has enabled these partnerships between the community and the city to enhance and expand public safety for the benefit of residents.

Becky was one of the first volunteers trained and has been a trainer for the past five years for the City of Corona Fire Department Community Emergency Response Team program,

CERT, which supplements city resources in the event of a disaster or other major emergency. CERT volunteers are trained in emergency procedures and are duly registered as disaster service workers in accordance with the California Government Code and the City of Corona Municipal Code. Becky has also been actively involved with the Advisory Board of Alternatives to Domestic Violence, ADV, and the Coalition of Family Preservation for almost 10 years. She has also served on the Riverside County Board of Alternatives to Domestic Violence, ADV, for 2 years and served as president in 2005. In addition to all her community activities, Becky also takes care of her husband, Dr. Charles E. Gunnoe, a former Chamber president and winner of the Citizen of the Year award in 1997.

In light of all Becky Gunnoe has done for the community of Corona, the City of Corona named Becky their Citizen of the Year. Becky's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives this prestigious award.

RECOGNIZING VERNA WEBBER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowan Verna Webber on the celebration of her 105th birthday today.

Verna was born on February 27, 1903 in the Ames, Iowa area. She grew up with seven siblings. Verna married Henry Albert Webber, who was a professor at Iowa State University. They happily had three children, Marjorie, Richard, and Don. Verna currently lives at the Riverside Manor in Ames. She remains in excellent health, and I am told from a good source that she can kick higher than any other resident during morning exercises. Verna spends her days with her daughter, Marjorie, who lives along with her at Riverside, where they can be seen attached at the hip.

There have been many changes that have occurred since Verna was born. We have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of the Soviet Union, communism, and the birth of new democracies. Verna has lived to see the leadership of 18 United States Presidents and 24 Governors of Iowa. And, in her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I am extremely honored to represent Verna in Congress, and I know that my colleagues will join me with warm birthday wishes for continued happiness and health in her future years.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY CORPORAL
DUNCAN CHARLES CROOKSTON

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the courageous life and the ultimate sacrifice of Army CPL Duncan Charles Crookston. This exceptional soldier merits our recognition and esteem as his character and devotion to duty decreed that he put the needs of others before his own. Corporal Crookston possessed the virtues that define an honorable life.

Tragically, Corporal Crookston was taken from us as a result of complications arising from severe injuries received in an attack and roadside blast along one of Baghdad's deadliest roads. Three of his comrades were killed and one other was wounded when an explosively formed penetrator blasted through their vehicle. Corporal Crookston died on Friday, January 25, 2008, at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. This fine young man was only 20 years old and while many of us have been blessed to live a longer life, I believe that few of us will have lived one of such consequence in service of our Nation's cause.

Corporal Crookston was the son of Christopher and Lee Crookston. He enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from West High School in Denver, Colorado. He became an airborne infantryman and was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kansas. Prior to his deployment to Iraq, he married his high school sweetheart, Meaghan. Comrades in arms noted that he was very intelligent and "able to complete a Rubik's cube in under 56 seconds." He became his unit's resident expert in computers and other electronic devices. He is remembered as someone who "helped everyone out whenever they needed him" . . . (a person who was) "full of life" . . . "a kind guy (who) was very loving and selfless, one in a million . . . (a man) who was willing to give up his life for other people."

I never had the honor of meeting Corporal Crookston but it is clearly evident that he was raised by a good family to be a decent, responsible and honorable person. He loved our country and volunteered to take his place among those who put themselves in harms way because of a singular and abiding devotion to this nation. Corporal Crookston understood his obligations and, in the words of Abraham Lincoln on the battlefield at Gettysburg, he gave "his last full measure of devotion" . . . so that others may live a better life. All Americans are in his debt. His devotion to duty in the war against terrorism and his uncommon valor in the face of mortal danger leave us with a legacy of courage and honor to which very few can aspire. Among other awards including the Army Commendation Medal and the Purple Heart, the United States Army awarded Corporal Crookston the Bronze Star.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life and sacrifice of United States Army CPL Duncan Charles Crookston, a distinguished soldier. His life was exemplary and his contributions are rich in consequence. On behalf of the citizens of the 1st Congressional District of

Colorado, I wish to extend our admiration and profound gratitude for this most honorable American. Our thoughts and prayers are with his widow, Meaghan, his parents, Christopher and Lee, and his five brothers.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
THOMAS CARNEY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gentleman who has quietly spent the last twenty-five years making a difference in our community. Prior to 1983, Thomas Carney would never have described himself as, in his own words, a "bunny hugger". However, while out on a walk that year in our desert community, he came across two desert tortoises that had been badly damaged by heavy equipment on a construction site. One did not survive, but the other one did, due to the care and compassion of Mr. Carney.

This one day occurrence put Mr. Carney on a course in life he could never have imagined—tortoise advocate. He is now a member of the Arizona Chapter of the National Turtle and Tortoise Society. This group is dedicated to the study and conservation of these endangered animals.

I feel that it is important to recognize people like Thomas Carney. He saw a problem and educated himself about how to help these gentle creatures. He is now an advocate for desert tortoises and donates his time to educating others.

Too often, we overlook the little things in life that really make a difference. Mr. Carney, I want to recognize your efforts. I say congratulations and thank you very much for a job well done.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE
PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF
THE 26TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the individuals from the 26th District of Texas who are currently serving with the Peace Corps in countries all across the globe. Elizabeth Bryant, Blake Childs, Genevieve Dozier, Justin Fleury, Philip Hernandez, Kareem Mansour, and Marianne Montalvo are among the 8,079 Peace Corps Volunteers currently serving 74 countries at 68 posts worldwide.

More than 190,000 citizens of all ages and backgrounds have worked for the cause of peace in 139 countries since the organization was founded in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. Peace Corps Volunteers have made momentous and long-lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment.

As we have all seen before, it is possible that a single person can be capable of chang-

ing the world. Therefore I know the impact made by these seven individuals is simply unimaginable. Elizabeth, Blake, Genevieve, Justin, Philip, Kareem, and Marianne are currently stationed in 7 different countries for two-year terms. Their commitment to world peace is a trait that is to be commended and their passion for service is something to be both appreciated and emulated.

One of my heroes, President Ronald Reagan, often spoke about the importance of voluntary service. He once said it is like "a spirit that flows like a deep and mighty river through the history of our Nation." These selfless individuals exemplify the character and moral fiber of philanthropy.

The Peace Corps provides an invaluable service to the world and I believe it is important that we recognize that service. The admirable men and women who dedicate their time to serving others truly make this world a better place. It is an honor to represent seven of those individuals in the 26th District of Texas. I am proud that these exemplary citizens, who undoubtedly act as role models to those who wish to follow in their footsteps.

IN HONOR OF THE RIBBON CUT-
TING FOR NEW YORK EYE AND
EAR INFIRMARY'S EAR INSTI-
TUTE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the ribbon cutting for New York Eye and Ear Infirmary's Ear Institute. This spacious new facility, located on the 9th Floor of 380 Second Avenue, will provide hope to thousands of individuals who are suffering from hearing loss.

The Ear Institute is a state-of-the-art facility that brings together ear specialty services from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, Beth Israel Medical Center and the Children's Hearing Institute. The \$2.7 million renovation encompasses 15,150 square feet and will provide care to approximately 15,000 patients each year. A center of excellence in auditory health care, it includes a Hearing and Learning Center, the Cochlear Implant Center, a Hearing and Balance Disorders Center and a Vestibular Rehabilitation Center. The Institute's physicians will include specialists in otology and neurotology, as well as some of the world's most respected medical researchers in otolaryngology.

Hearing loss is America's number one birth defect and a leading cause of disability affecting 28 million Americans of all ages. Most adults over age 60 lose approximately 1 percent of their hearing annually, making hearing loss one of the most universal problems of aging. Hearing loss leaves people isolated from the community and unable to participate in many activities. Using innovative technology, the Ear Institute can literally transform the quality of people's lives. At the Ear Institute ribbon-cutting, I met profoundly deaf individuals who, thanks to innovative techniques used by the Infirmary's exceptional medical staff, were now able to hear, including children who could hear well enough to participate in

mainstream classrooms, adults who were able to return to their jobs, and seniors who were able to enjoy a better quality of life.

The Ear Institute will build on the excellent programs that the Infirmary has offered for many years. The Infirmary's Cochlear Implant Center is one of the largest in the United States, and participates in numerous national and international research protocols. The Infirmary pioneered innovative procedures that have restored hearing to thousands of profoundly deaf individuals, including infants as young as six months and adults.

The Infirmary also specializes in diagnostic services for people with hearing and balance disorders, and the new Ear Institute is equipped with some of the latest technology for helping diagnose problems, including rotational chair testing, dynamic Platform Posturography, pure tone and speech audiometry, advanced auditory brainstem and middle latency testing.

Founded in 1820, the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary is the oldest specialty hospital in the Western Hemisphere and was the first hospital to provide clinical training to medical students. The Infirmary is currently a teaching hospital affiliated with New York Medical College. With more than 20 residents and fellows graduating each year, it is considered one of the finest training programs for ophthalmologists and otolaryngologists in the world today.

With some of the most advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities available anywhere in the world, the Infirmary is often the first user of innovative technology, such as the first clinical high-resolution ultrasound biomicroscope in the United States. The Infirmary performs more than 23,000 surgical procedures and treats approximately 142,000 people on an outpatient basis each year. Its Eye Trauma Center treats more emergency eye cases than any other facility in New York.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the exceptional achievements of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and in celebrating the opening day of its new state-of-the-art Ear Institute.

CONGRATULATING SHARON DOYLE
ON HER OUTSTANDING COMMU-
NITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sharon Doyle on receiving Tempe Leadership's Outstanding Community Leadership Award. I am especially pleased to recognize Sharon because she is not only a worthy recipient, but a long-time family friend from my home town, Tempe, Arizona. This award recognizes outstanding leadership achievements and service that contribute to improving the quality of life in Tempe.

Sharon is also a fellow educator, retiring after thirty years as a speech and language pathologist in the Tempe Union High School District. This award represents years of community service which at the present time involves service to sixteen different committees and organizations. Although Sharon is retired,